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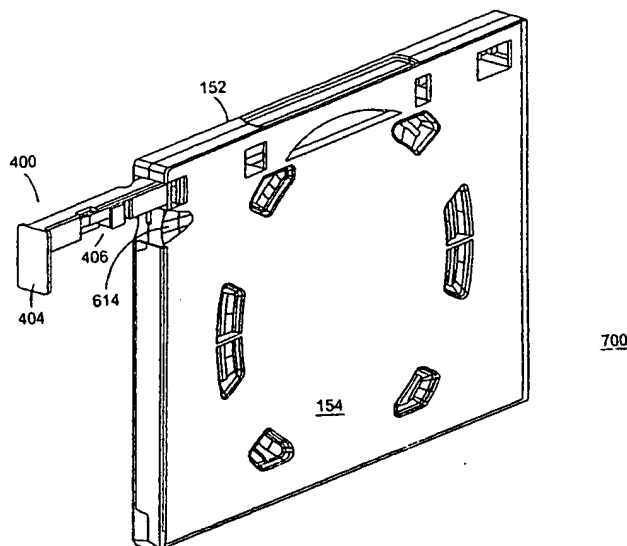
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CASE WITH INTERNAL LOCK



(57) Abstract: A lockable storage case includes a top cover pivotably coupled to a bottom cover through a spine. The top cover includes loops or an upper lock receiving member and a lower lock receiving member defining a top cover lock insertion path. The bottom cover includes loops or an upper lock receiving member and a lower lock receiving member defining a bottom cover lock insertion path. The lower lock receiving members of both the top and bottom covers include hooks for receiving and maintaining a latch. When the top cover is closed on the bottom cover, the top and bottom cover insertion paths combine to form a combined lock insertion path. A lock for the storage case includes first and second catch mechanisms with first and second catches. To lock the storage case, the lock is inserted into the combined lock insertion path so that the catches on the lock mate with and are retained with the hooks in the top and bottom covers.

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— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/23856

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 E05B73/00 G11B23/02 B65D55/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	EP 0 308 810 A (ANTONSON SECURITY DENMARK AS) 29 March 1989 (1989-03-29) the whole document	1-7, 55, 63, 64, 81 9, 24, 61, 69
X A	FR 2 711 311 A (AMBRE SA MONTRES) 28 April 1995 (1995-04-28) the whole document	1-3, 55, 63 24, 61, 66
X A	EP 0 211 088 A (FELSKOWSKY ROLF) 25 February 1987 (1987-02-25) the whole document	1-3, 25, 26, 35-37, 44, 55, 61, 63, 81 24, 66, 69

☒

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

* "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

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*T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

***X** document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

*Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

'&' document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/23856

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 616 103 A (PATACO AG) 21 September 1994 (1994-09-21)	1-3, 25, 26, 31-39, 42, 44, 69 40, 65-67
A	column 3, line 30 -column 7, line 25; figures 1-20	
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A	column 4, line 21 -column 19, line 58; figures 3-5, 15-30	
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X	US 5 823 341 A (NAKASUJI TAMOTSU) 20 October 1998 (1998-10-20)	25, 31, 32, 35-38, 44-48, 65, 67 54
A	column 2, line 6 -column 3, line 67; figures 1-4	
X	WO 93 15294 A (TRANS TECH DESIGNS LIMITED) 5 August 1993 (1993-08-05) page 8, line 1 -page 10, line 2; figures 6, 7	25, 27, 33, 34, 53
E	GB 2 351 277 A (NISSHIN CO LTD) 27 December 2000 (2000-12-27) page 7, line 3 -page 11, line 3; figures 4-8, 11-15, 17, 18, 20-23	25, 27, 31-39, 44-46, 48, 53

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 01/23856

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☒ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
1-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 19-46, 48-50, 53-59, 61-81
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 01 23856

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-7,9,10,12-14,19-24,55-59,61-64,69-81

Storage case for storing a recording medium, the case having VSDA standard dimensions and being adapted to receive a lock.

2. Claims: 1,8

Storage case for storing a recording medium, having two covers, wherein the first and second covers includes an indent which is adapted to receive a user's finger.

3. Claims: 1,11

Storage case for storing a recording medium, having two covers, wherein the first cover includes a recess dimensioned to received a memory card.

4. Claims: 1,15-17

Storage case for storing a recording medium, having two covers, comprising at least one document retaining member on the second cover.

5. Claims: 1,18

Storage case for storing a recording medium, having two covers, comprising a hub centered on the first cover.

6. Claims: 25,26,42,43,65

Lock and manufacturing method, the lock having at least one movable catch mechanism including one mettalllic pin.

7. Claims: 25,27-30,33,34,53

Lock with integrated security tag.

8. Claims: 25,31,32,35-41,44-46,48-50,54,66-68

Lock and lock-case combination, comprising security means to prevent removal of the lock from the case by pulling.

9. Claims: 25,47

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 01 23856

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Lock with anti-tampering masking means.

10. Claims: 25,51,52

Lock comprising an anti-tampering mechanical noise maker.

11. Claims: 55,60

Lock and lock-case combination, the lock comprising auto-ejecting means to facilitate its extraction.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 01/23856

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